

the inner ribs engage opposite sides of the tooth in a cleaning action; and

5 the outer ribs provide a massaging action of the gum simultaneously with the cleaning action of the inner ribs on the tooth.

13. A method of simultaneously cleaning an animal's teeth and massaging its gums comprising a steps of:

providing a pet toy having an outer surface having a groove with a pair of spaced inner and outer ribs on opposite sides of the groove;

causing the animal to bite down on the pet toy wherein a tooth of the animal engages in the groove;

deflecting the outer surface adjacent the groove; and

contacting opposite sides of the tooth and contacting the gum of the animal adjacent the tooth by the inner and outer ribs, respectively, of said pairs of ribs in response to said deflecting step so that the tooth and gums are respectively cleaned and massaged.

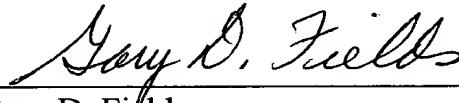
REMARKS

By the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, new method Claims 11-13 have been added. These claims find proper antecedent basis in Figures 8 and 9 and in the specification at column 4, lines 6-29. These claims are believed patentable over all of the prior art of record.

A sincere effort has been made to place this application into condition for allowance. Therefore, such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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